

mined when the skulls of these species can be compared with the typical skull described in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1845, p. 82.

In the British Museum there is a very large specimen of a true *Phascolomys*, which, from the colour and rigidity of the fur, appears to be a third species. Unfortunately the skin is without any skull, and has no reliable habitat attributed to it, as it was purchased of Mr. Jamrach, in 1859, who received it from "Australia." It is very probably the "big yellow fellow," or Wombat, that the natives say is found on the banks of the Murray. (See Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, p. 271.)

Phascolomys setosus.

Nearly uniform pale brown; the fur rigid, with a small quantity of under-fur on the shoulders and limbs, consisting almost entirely of dark brown bristles with pale tips, and rather more rigid black-brown longer bristles; the muffle subtrigonal, as long as broad.

Hab. Australia.

This is the specimen figured by Mr. Gould, in Part xi. of his 'Mammalia of Australia,' under the name of *Phascolomys latifrons*; but how he determined that it was the *P. latifrons* of Owen I do not know, as the only skin we have has no skull, and *P. latifrons* is only described from a skull. The different character of the fur is the best distinction. The young Tasmanian Wombat (*P. ursinus*) is dark, like the adult.

On the Occurrence of living Water-Beetles in the Intestines of the Common Trout.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Preston Rectory, Wellington, Salop,
May 21, 1863.

GENTLEMEN,—While examining the intestines of the common Trout (*Salmo fario*, Linn.) for *Echinorhynchi*, I was surprised to find, at the space of about half an inch from the anal orifice, two specimens of a small brown water-beetle, *alive and active*, amongst the contents of the intestine. I have not yet determined the species of beetle, nor do I at all know whether the discovery of a living non-parasitic animal in such a locality is a matter of ordinary occurrence. But in this case there is, it would seem, undoubted evidence of the power of an insect to survive unharmed the digestive process of a fish. The beetles had been swallowed by the trout with other food, and here they were quite lively and ready to be evacuated in a very short time.

That I have made no mistake in the matter is evident from the fact, that attached to the underside of one of the beetles was a quantity of mucus from the fish's intestine, in which were imbedded the proboscides of two or three specimens of *Echinorhynchus Proteus*. I have examined the stomach and intestines of various freshwater fish, but never before witnessed the occurrence of living forms of

non-parasitic animals in the locality indicated. Is there anything remarkable in this, or is it an event of ordinary occurrence?

There is only one other way of accounting for the insect's admission—by supposing that it had entered the intestine through the anal orifice (?). "*Sub judice lis est.*"

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours very truly,
W. HOUGHTON.

Pretended "Parthenogenesis" of the Bernhard Crab.

"Cornwall, Sept. 5, 1770.

"SIR,—I pass a great deal of my time in walking on the cliffs and by the sea-side in this county. As I was one day going over the rocks at low water, I saw an infinite number of Periwinkles, out of which projected two claws resembling those of a Lobster. Curiosity induced me to break the shells of several, to discover, if I could, how the little creature could introduce itself, as the body of the Periwinkle generally filled its shell.

"I was soon satisfied in my searches, but, to my astonishment, found that it was the body of the Periwinkle that was undergoing this metamorphosis. This occasioned my breaking several shells more, in all of which I found the same appearances, and had the satisfaction of demonstrating to several gentlemen of undoubted veracity that the body of the Periwinkle actually underwent this change till it became a perfect Lobster. In some you might discern the most minute change, others were half-formed, and some were completely formed. I spread a dozen at least on a table at one time, which they traversed many times, to the satisfaction of several gentlemen present.

"It is a received opinion that the infant Lobster takes refuge in the empty shell of a Periwinkle. I was one of those who imbibed that opinion before I made this discovery.

"As I am little versed in studies of this nature, I request the thoughts of your ingenious correspondents on the subject. It seems probable that the Periwinkles may be produced from the berries of the Lobster, as it seems impossible that the Lobster can be produced in the first state from the Periwinkle.

"I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
"CORNUBIENSIS." *

New American Otter.

In the 'Canadian Naturalist' for June 1863, Mr. George Barnston describes and figures the skull of a new North-American Otter, which he calls *Lutra destructor*. He observes, "I propose to show that there exists throughout a great portion of the British territory of North America, if not further south, a smaller species of Otter, well known to the aboriginal Ojibways and the Crees as the *Pinaikeewaw-keek*, the breaker of beaver-houses and the dams. He closely re-

* Extracted from a newspaper of the above date.